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1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

71-8

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Mandatory Review
Case # NLJ 97-383
Document # 71b

9 May 1968

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Czechoslovak Situation (as of 1200 hours)

1. [REDACTED] Soviet troops are moving toward or into Czechoslovakia, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] claims to have seen Soviet troops moving in the direction of Czechoslovakia in an area south of Krakow on 8 May. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Soviet troop contingents had taken four hours to pass one unspecified location. During the same day, [REDACTED] while en route to Prague, was stopped [REDACTED] south of Warsaw and forced to return to the Polish capital. On 9 May [REDACTED] was stopped on the highway [REDACTED] north of Warsaw and told to return. After protests and a two hour wait, he was allowed to proceed.

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3. On 9 May, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] he had heard "last night" a report of troop movements on the Czechoslovak border. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] rumors going around Warsaw that Soviet troops are moving into Czechoslovakia. [REDACTED]

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4. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Soviet troops were moving in the area and that these movements were connected with developments in Czechoslovakia. [REDACTED]

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5. There are a variety of Soviet ground forces that could be called upon if Moscow should come to the point of military intervention in Czechoslovakia. The forces in the Carpathian Military District [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] consist of thirteen divisions. Four of the five tank divisions there are considered combat ready, and two of the eight motorized rifle divisions

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in the area are considered combat ready. The closest formation to Czechoslovakia is a motorized rifle division at Uzhgorod on the Ukrainian-Czechoslovak border. The Soviets have 10 tank and 10 motorized rifle divisions in East Germany, two tank divisions in Poland, and two tank and two motorized rifle divisions in Hungary. All of these forces are considered to be combat ready.

6.



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7. Czechoslovak party boss Dubcek told interviewers at home on 6 May that he had calmed the "anxieties" of Soviet leaders about the course of events in Czechoslovakia. It seems clear that the Soviets, on the other hand, did

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not accept Dubcek's assurances that he can control the pace and scope of democratization. On 8 May Pravda quoted Dubcek, thus informing Soviet readers of their leaders' "anxieties."

8. Commentaries on Czechoslovakia from Poland and Hungary [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] may be of significance. The Poles have continued to attack the "alien, anti-socialist trend in the political life" of Czechoslovakia. The main party daily, Trybuna Ludu, said that this trend is "aimed at undermining the guiding role of the working class (Communist) party, liquidating people's (Communist) power and setting Czechoslovakia at variance with fraternal socialist countries." The Hungarian party-controlled popular front paper, Magyar Nemzet, on the other hand, said on 9 May it could see nothing wrong with Czechoslovakia's new action program or its reforms.

9. [REDACTED] it would appear that Moscow has decided to do some saberratting in order to influence the Czechoslovaks to put a brake on their democratization.

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